

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01407 181210Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 AF-10 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 010072

R 181132Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7149

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BU, UR, IL

SUBJECT: RUMOR THAT SADAT SAW BREZHNEV IN BULGARIA

REF: SOFIA (A) 1283 AND (B) 1263; (C) ROME 16

41 (NOTAL)

1. FACTS LIKE CLOSING OF INTERNATIONAL AIR CORRIDORS AND ONE DAY EXTENSION OF THE BREZHNEV VISIT TENDED TO SUBSTANTIATE RUMORS THAT SADAT WAS SECRETLY MEETING WITH BREZHNEV IN BULGARIA. THE RUMORS BEGAN WITH A BEIRUT PRESS STORY ON THE SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH WE REPORTED THE RUMOR, AND INDICATED IT WAS A POSSIBILITY (REF B NOT SENT ROME), WE WERE INCLINED TO DISBELIEVE IT AND PARTICULARLY AFTER THE INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES REPORTED THAT SADAT HAD MET WITH THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO ON THE DAY HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY SEEING BREZHNEV IN BULGARIA, SEPTEMBER 20.

2. OF COURSE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SADAT MET BREZHNEV HERE ON SEPTEMBER 20 WHEN BREZHNEV WAS SUPPOSEDLY HUNTING AND ALSO MEETING WITH AN UNUSUAL COLLECTION OF BULGARIAN INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS (REPORTED REF A ALSO NOT SENT ROME). IF SADAT MET WITH SOVIET AM-
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BASSADOR IN CAIRO SEPTEMBER 20 IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT

HE CAME HERE UNLESS, OF COURSE, THEY BOTH CAME AND THE
REPORTED CAIRO MEETING WAS A COVER STORY.
BATJER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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